

Stainton Village Hall Trust

Safeguarding Children Policy

Introduction

Stainton Village Hall Trust is fully committed to safeguarding children and young people and believes that it is always unacceptable for any child to experience any kind of abuse. Although only a minimal number of our services are directly delivered to children and young people, we realise that our activities within Stainton all carry with them a degree of responsibility and influence in terms of Safeguarding.

1. Aims

- To provide protection for the children and young people who directly or indirectly come in to contact with Stainton Village Hall Trust, including the children of adult users.
- To provide the committee and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.
- This policy applies to all trustees and volunteers or anyone acting on behalf of Stainton Village Hall Trust.

2. Definitions

2.1 Definition of a child

The Children Act 1989 defines a child as anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital, in prison or in a Young Offenders Institution does not change his or her status or entitlement to service or protection.

2.2 Abuse

The following gives examples of different kinds of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

Further information regarding the different kinds of abuse is in Appendix A

3. Stainton Village Hall Trust responsibility

Stainton Village Hall Trust will ensure that:

- The welfare of the child remains paramount
- All children, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, and sexual identity, have the right to be protected from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Anyone engaging in activities on behalf of Stainton Village Hall Trust has a responsibility to report any concerns they may have.

4. Roles and responsibilities of Trustees and Volunteers

4.1 Trustees

Trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring that this policy and guidelines are implemented.
- Monitoring incidents to ensure that best practice is adopted.
- Ensuring that proper support is available in the event of an incident occurring.
- The chair is the designated safeguarding officer and is responsible for
 - Ensuring that this policy is implemented.
 - If appropriate, and in consultation with the committee, reporting concerns to the Council and/or to the Police (this does not preclude anyone from phoning emergency services in the event of a risk of serious immediate harm or referring a person at risk to Doncaster Social Services should this be appropriate)
 - Ensuring that all concerns reported to them are recorded in writing.
 - Providing support
 - Ensuring that the committee and volunteers receive adequate instruction and training in implementing this policy.

4.2 Volunteers

Volunteers are responsible for:

- Implementing the policy
- Reporting any concerns as per the reporting procedures

5. Guidelines for Reporting Procedures

5.1 If abuse is suspected, disclosed, alleged or discovered about a child

- check that any necessary emergency medical treatment is arranged;
- ensuring the victim of the alleged abuse is safe;
- preserve evidence;
- say what you have seen and make an accurate written record then report to the chair

5.2 The Chair will decide whether or not a referral should be made about the concerns and will contact the Safeguarding Officer at Doncaster Council for advice if required. The Chair will make a written record of the decision and its reasons and discuss it with the person who has made the report.

Where a referral should be made, the Chair will contact:

- Doncaster Council Safeguarding Children's Service
- The Emergency Duty Service (out of hours)
- The Police, in emergencies

See appendix B for contact details.

5.3 All written information regarding an allegation of abuse will be kept in the safe.

5.5 If a decision is taken not to report concerns about someone at that time, the situation will be kept under review by the chair who will keep in close contact with everyone involved with the child.

Policy adopted by the committee:

Signature of Chair:

Review / Change Record

Date of approval, review or change:	Changed By:	Comments:
22.2.22		Approved

Stainton Village Hall Trust is a Registered Charity No 514656

Appendices

Appendix A

Signs of Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may result in the symptoms described below. Aside from direct physical contact, physical abuse can also be caused when a parent or caregiver feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. Signs of physical abuse include:

- Bruises on legs before a child is mobile
- Black eyes without bruising to the forehead
- Fingertip bruising and bruises in various stages of healing
- Cigarette type burns anywhere, patterned burns (irons), rope burns. Contact burns in abnormal sites.
- Lacerations to the body or mouth
- Multiple fractures. Evidence of old fractures. Any fractures to children under two years old
- Fading injuries noticeable after an absence from school
- Seems frightened of parents, does not want to return home at the end of the day
- Shrinks markedly (backs away) at the approach of adults
- Suffers from frozen watchfulness
- Constantly asks in words/actions what will happen next

Signs of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to participate in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving the children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Signs of sexual abuse displayed by children include:

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Pain/itching/bleeding/bruising/discharge to the genital area/anus
- Urinary infections/sexually transmitted diseases
- Persistent sore throats
- Eating disorders
- Self-mutilation
- Refuses to change for gym or participate in physical activities
- Exhibits inappropriate sexual knowledge for their age
- Exhibits sexualised behaviour in their play or with other children
- Lack of peer relationships, sleep disturbances, acute anxiety/fear

- School refusal, running away from home

Signs of Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or not valued insofar as they meet another person's needs. It may feature inappropriate expectations being imposed on children relative to their actual development or age. Signs of emotional abuse displayed by children include:

- Excessive behaviour, such as extreme aggression, passivity or become overly demanding
- Children who self-harm, for instance, by scratching or cutting themselves
- Is either inappropriately adult or infantile
- Children who persistently run away from home
- Children who show high levels of anxiety, unhappiness or withdrawal

Signs of Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. This is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Signs of neglect include:

- Frequent absenteeism from school
- Begs or steals money or food
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunisations or glasses
- Lacks appropriate clothing, e.g. for weather conditions, shoes are too small, ill-fitted clothes
- Clothes are consistently dirty
- Teeth are dirty, hair quality is poor and contains infestations
- Hands are cold, red and swollen

The parent or adult caregiver has failed to protect a child from physical harm or danger

Appendix B

Useful contacts: If urgent, contact the Police on 999.

Doncaster Children's Services Trust:
Colonnades House
Duke Street
Doncaster
DN1 1ER

For general enquiries: General.Enquiries@dcstrust.co.uk

01302 737777 (8.30 – 5.30 Monday - Friday) 01302 796000 (out of hours).

The NSPCC support and advice line for adults who are concerned about a child is free and you don't have to say who you are: 0808 800 5000.

NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/>

The Safe Network provides information and resources to the voluntary sector on safeguarding – www.safenetwork.org.uk

Managing Allegations

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be alerted regarding concerns and allegations regarding employees/ volunteers and children/ young people, and will give support and advice Tel: 01302 737332 (LADO Team) LADO@dcstrust.co.uk

The Disclosure and Barring Service should be alerted by employers/ volunteer managers who have concerns that an individual has caused harm or poses future risk of harm to vulnerable groups including children. For more information and a referral form, see the DBS website - <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/dbs/>